

Dr. Hare laid before the society a specimen of platinum, weighing between twenty-two and twenty-three ounces, being part of a mass of twenty-five ounces, fused by him in May last, by means of his compound blowpipe.

Dr. Hare also mentioned that he had observed, during a recent tornado at Somerset, Mass. various circumstances, which he detailed, all leading to the conclusion that a hiatus or place of rest exists at the centre of motion of the tornado.

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*Stated Meeting, October 5.*

Present, twenty-nine members.

MR. DU PONCEAU, President, in the Chair.

The following donations were received:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- Inquisitionum in Officio Rotulorum Cancellariæ Hiberniæ asservatarum, Repertorium. Dublin. Vol. I., 1826; Vol. II., 1829.—*From the Honourable Board of Commissioners on the Public Records of Great Britain.*
- Rotulorum Patentium et Clausorum Cancellariæ Hiberniæ Calendarium. Vol. I. Part I. Dublin, 1828.—*From the Same.*
- Rotuli de Oblatis et Finibus in Turri Londinensi asservati, Tempore Regis Johannis. London, 1835.—*From the same.*
- Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council of England. London. Vol. V., 1835; Vol. VI. & VII., 1837.—*From the same.*
- Excerpta è Rotulis Finium in Turri Londinensi asservatis, Henrico Tertio Rege. Vol. II. London, 1836.—*From the same.*
- The Ancient Kalendars and Inventories of his Majesty's Exchequer. Three Vols. London, 1836.—*From the same.*
- Documents and Records illustrating the History of Scotland. Vol. I. London, 1837.—*From the same.*
- Rotuli Chartarum in Turri Londinensi asservati. Vol. I. Part. I. London, 1837.—*From the same.*
- General Report to the King in Council from the Honourable Board of Commissioners on the Public Records. London, 1837.—*From the same.*
- Registrum vulgariter nuncupatum "The Record of Caernarvon;" è Codice Ms<sup>to</sup>. Harleiano 696. descriptum. London, 1838.—*From the same.*

- The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge, for the year 1839. Boston, 1838.—*From Mr. J. E. Worcester.*
- Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Vol. VII. of the third Series. Boston, 1838.—*From the Society.*
- History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Catholic. By William H. Prescott. Three Vols. Third Edition. Boston, 1838.—*From the Author.*
- Human Physiology; illustrated by Engravings. By Robley Dunglison, M. D. Two Vols. Third Edition. Philadelphia, 1838.—*From the Author.*
- The Magazine of Natural History. New Series. Conducted by Edward Charlesworth, F. G. S. &c. Vol. II. Nos. 19 & 20, for July and August. London, 1838.—*From the Conductor.*
- The Transactions of the Linnean Society of London. Vol. XVIII. Part the First. London, 1838.—*From the Society.*
- New Testament in the Chippewa Language. Albany, 1833. *From the Hon. William C. Frazer.*
- North American Herpetology; or, a Description of the Reptiles inhabiting the United States. By John Edwards Holbrook, M. D. Vol. II. Philadelphia, 1838.—*From the Author.*
- Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, for the year 1837–8. Part II. Dublin, 1838.—*From the Academy.*
- Note on the Solar Eclipse of May, 15, 1836. By Sears C. Walker. (From the Journal of the Franklin Institute.) Philadelphia, 1836.—*From the Author.*
- Note sur le Magnétisme Terrestre, suivie des Résultats des Observations Horaires, faites à l'Équinoxe du Printemps de 1838, par A. Quetelet. Brussels, 1838.—*From the Author.*
- Note sur le Magnétisme Terrestre, par A. Quetelet. Suivie des Résultats des Observations Horaires, faites à l'Époque du dernier Solstice d'Été, en 1838. Brussels, 1838.—*From the Author.*
- A Collection of Interesting French Pamphlets.—*From D. B. Warden, Esq.*
- Catalogue of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, with a Calendar prefixed. (In Hungarian.) Buda, 1838.—*From Mr. Charles Nagy.*

## FOR THE CABINET.

Three hundred copper coins, medals, and tokens, and other articles of interest.—*From Mr. James Linah, of Charleston, S. C.*

The Committee on Mr. Nulty's paper, read at the last meeting, recommended that it be printed in the Society's Transactions; and its publication was ordered accordingly.

The Committee on the solar eclipse of the 18th of September, made a further Report in part.

This portion of the report embraced the observations made in the vicinity of Philadelphia, of which the following are the principal results, arranged in the order in which they were received, and, with one exception, in mean time of the place of observation; the longitudes being reckoned from Greenwich.

No. 16, by Robert Treat Paine, Esq., at the west front of the Capitol, Washington. Latitude  $38^{\circ} 53' 23''$ , as determined by Mr. Paine, with his Troughton's sextant. Longitude  $5h 8m 8s$  west. With  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet equatorial, green screen glass. Time by three chronometers, regulated by eastern and western altitudes of sun and stars, with his Troughton's sextant.

	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>
Beginning, . . . . .	3	6	9.58
Formation of ring, . . . . .	4	24	28.15
Rupture of ring, . . . . .	4	30	18.55
End, . . . . .	5	39	54.89
Duration of eclipse, . . . . .	2	33	45.31
Do. of ring, . . . . .		5	50.40

"The ring formed instantaneously, and broke nearly so. No beads were seen, nor the dark lines mentioned by Mr. Bailey, nor the light round the moon, although all were looked for. No distortion of the moon's limb could be seen, and the cusps of the sun, before the ring formed, were as sharp as needles."

No. 17, by Lieut. Gilliss, U. S. N., at the Marine Observatory, Washington City, N.  $8''$ , W.  $0.08s$  in time, from the Capitol, with a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet achromatic, green screen glass, power 50. Astronomical clock regulated by a five feet transit instrument.

	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>
Beginning, . . . . .	3	6	10.4
Formation of ring, . . . . .	4	24	28.4
Rupture of ring, . . . . .	4	30	18.9
End, . . . . .	5	39	56.4
Duration of eclipse, . . . . .	2	33	46.0
Do. of ring, . . . . .		5	50.5

"At beginning of eclipse, limbs sharp and well defined. The same at formation and rupture of the ring, only in the former the light seemed to flash round the moon's limb." Two detached arched portions of the ring were seen separated from the cusps, "while the space between presented points of light (beads) only."

No. 18, by Prof. Elias Loomis, at the Observatory of the Western Reserve College, Ohio. Latitude  $41^{\circ} 14' 42''$  N. Longitude  $5h 25m 35s$  W. With a five feet equatorial, mounted on a stone pier under a revolving dome, with yellow screen glass, power 150, nearly. Astronomical clock regulated by a 30 inch transit circle by Simms.

Beginning  $14h 27m 26.7s$  sidereal time.

Other phases lost by clouds.

Nos. 19 and 20, by J. Gummere and his son S. J. Gummere, at the Haverford School Observatory, Chester County, Pa. Latitude  $41^{\circ} 1' 12''$  N. Longitude  $5h. 1m. 16s.$  W. With two  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet telescopes by Tulley, with red screen glasses, powers 75, nearly. Astronomical clock regulated by a Dollond's portable transit instrument.

	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>
Beginning, - - - -	3	12	17.2
Formation of ring, - -	4	30	29.2
Rupture of ring, - - -	4	34	44.8
End, - - - - -	5	44	28.7
Duration of eclipse, - -	2	32	11.5
Do. of ring, - - -	4	15.6	

Arch of faint light, with brush in centre, seen before the formation of the ring. Arch seen after rupture, brush of light not recollected. Formation and rupture of the ring, by broken portions of the sun's border, several in number, not round like beads, but arched portions of the ring. These continued several seconds, and then suddenly united in the first instance, and separated in the last, without, however, exhibiting the dark lines figured by Bailey.

Nos. 21 and 22, by Charles Wister and his son Caspar E. Wister, at the Observatory of the former, Germantown. Latitude  $40^{\circ} 1' 59''$ . Longitude  $2.7s$  in time west of the State House. With  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 2 feet Gregorian reflectors. Astronomical clock regulated by a 3 feet transit instrument.

	<i>C. Wister.</i>			<i>C. E. Wister.</i>		
	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>
Beginning, - -	3	12	55.4	3	12	54.4
Formation of ring, - -	4	31	9.4	4	31	8.4
Rupture of ring, -	4	35	18.4	4	35	18.4
End, - - -	5	45	8.4	5	45	7.4
Duration of eclipse,	2	32	13.0	2	32	13.0
Do. of ring, -		4	9.0		4	10.0

“The lucid points and dark intervening spaces corresponded closely to Bailey’s description.”

No. 23, by John Griscom. Latitude 9.7'' N. Longitude 0.3s in time west of the Observatory of Haverford School. With a 3½ feet Dollond achromatic, power 80.

	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>
Beginning, - - - -	3	12	18.6
Formation of ring, - -	4	30	31.6
Rupture of ring, (not reported.)			
End, - - - -	5	44	26.6
Duration of eclipse - -	2	32	8.6
Do. of ring, (not reported.)			

No. 24, by Prof. James Hamilton, of Burlington, New Jersey. Latitude 40° 5' 10'' N., 69.1s in time east of State House, Philada. With a five feet achromatic, power 80. Clock regulated by equal altitudes with a sextant.

	<i>h</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>s</i>
Beginning, - - - -	3	14	23.7
Formation of ring, - -	4	32	32.6
Rupture of ring, - - -	4	36	19.6
End, - - - -	5	46	8.5
Duration of eclipse, - -	2	31	44.8
Do. of ring, - - -		3	47.0

“The phases of the ring are the perfect formation and perfect rupture, without reference to beads. No dark lines seen.”

The President presented a letter from Mr. S. P. Hullihen, dated Wheeling, Sep. 27, 1838, addressed to Dr. Harlan, giving an account of an inscription on a stone, found in a tumulus at Grave Creek, near that place. Referred to the President, Dr. Dunlison, and Dr. Emerson.

The President communicated a MS. book, entitled “Vocabularies of the Languages of the Indians inhabiting the N. W. Coast of America.” Collected by John K. Townsend during the years 1834, '35, and '36. Referred to the Historical and Literary Committee.

The President also communicated a MS. book, entitled “A Grammar of the Iroquois Language. By Eleazer Williams.” Referred to the same Committee.

Mr. Strickland presented a specimen of the asphaltic rock from the mines of Seyssel, in France, and a disc or tablet of

Mosaic work made of the same mineral, and briefly explained the process of its manufacture.

Dr. Mitchell presented to the notice of the society, Jeffrey's oral respirator, and explained its structure and uses.

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*Stated Meeting, October 19.*

Present, seventeen members

DR. CHAPMAN, Vice President, in the Chair.

The following donations were received:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Principles of Political Economy. Part the Second. By H. C. Carey. Philadelphia, 1838.—*From the Author.*

Supplemental Annotations to the Book of the New Covenant. London, 1838.—*From Granville Penn, Esq.*

Letters from the English Kings and Queens to the Governors of the Colony of Connecticut, from 1635 to 1749. By R. R. Hinman, A. M. Hartford, 1836.—*From A. Winthrop, Esq.*

The Blue Laws of New Haven Colony, usually called Blue Laws of Connecticut; Quaker Laws of Plymouth and Massachusetts, &c. Hartford, 1838.—*From the same.*

Arte de la Lengva Moxa. Compuesto por el M. R. P. Pedro Marban. Lima, 1702.—*From W. B. Hodgson, Esq.*

Views on the Improvement of the Maltese Language. By the Rev. C. F. Schlienz. Malta, 1838.—*From W. W. Andrews, Esq.*

Svensk Botanik, utgifvén af J. W. Palmstruch. Vols. II. III. IV. V. & VI. Stockholm, 1803-4-5-7-9.—*From Mr. John Vaughan.*

Svenska Lafvarnas Färghistoria. Af Joh. P. Westring. Vol. I. Stockholm, 1805.—*From the same.*

E'lémens de Philosophie Chimique, par H. Davy. Traduit de l'Anglais, avec des Additions, par J.-B. Van Mons. Two Vols. Paris, 1826.—*From the same.*

Essai sur la Théorie des Proportions Chimiques. Par J. J. Berzelius. Paris, 1819.—*From the same.*

The History of Kentucky. By H. Marshall. Two Vols. Frankfort, 1824.—*From the same.*